

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. In the June 21, 2004 office action, the Examiner:

1. Rejected claims 1-5, 12-13, 17-18 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,028,599 to Yuen et al. ("Yuen");
2. Deemed claims 6-11, 14-16 and 19-22 allowable if rewritten to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim;
3. Allowed claims 23-32.

In this response, applicants have canceled claims 1, 12 and 23, without prejudice. Applicants have amended claims 6, 14 and 24 to incorporate the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, claims 6, 14 and 24 are in a condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 17 and 19-21 have been amended to depend from one of claims 6, 14 and 24. All other claims depend at least indirectly from one of claims 6, 14 and 24.

As a consequence, the applicants have amended the claims so that all claims incorporate subject matter deemed to be allowable in the June 21, 2004 office action. It is noted that Applicants have considered claim 23 as having been rejected in the office action (it is shown as both rejected and allowed). Applicants have also considered claim 24 as having been objected to but deemed allowable if rewritten to incorporate all of the subject matter of claim 23.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in a condition for allowance.

II. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in a condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. C. Moore' with a stylized flourish at the end.

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